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which pretends to be a work of art, and you will never err in the opinion you form respecting it, whatever art-fanatics, art-pretenders, and art-liars may chatter to confuse your judgment.

And now, one word more.

Sincere art-enthusiasts, who fall into ecstasies at everything which pleases them,—and weaklings, who are astounded at the effects which a composer may produce, because they are unable themselves to create anything of worth,—prate with much unction of the dignity, the elevation, even the holiness of Art. Let us, with all our joy in Music, remain strictly candid. Where lies the dignity of a Haydn's symphony? What is elevating in Mozart's *Figaro*? Where lies the holiness of Caspar's "earthly vale of tears?" I am attached with fervent gratitude to our great Masters, who so often have afforded, and ever newly afford me such great, such pure delight; nevertheless, I can never, without a smile, hear them described as miraculous beings,—inspired seers, embued with godlike frenzy, like Pythia on her tripod, or as soaring through immeasurable space, plucking ideas from amongst the stars. Alas! they were and are men like ourselves,—loved good eating and drinking, were joyous or angry like other folk, smoked or took snuff, and during lifetime fell into manifold weaknesses and follies, &c., &c. With all this, they desired, as musicians, to compose charming music, which should please general listeners; therefore they learnt diligently, exercised themselves unwearingly, studied their predecessors, sought to ascertain why this or that work pleased or pleased not, observed mankind, made plans and sketches, altered and improved them and what they had already completed,—they *explained to themselves what they really intended, and never rested until they could execute what they intended.*

Thus must you proceed, to rise like them.

MUSIC

AMONG THE POETS AND POETICAL WRITERS.

By MARY COWDEN CLARKE.

(Continued from page 138.)

THAT unique songster, the cuckoo, could not fail of being noted by the poets. Two of them, in a single characteristic line, have recorded its peculiar music:—

"The plain-song cuckoo gray."—*Shakespeare.*

"The cuckoo repeats his short indolent tune."

Leigh Hunt.

"O blithe new-comer! I have heard,

I hear thee and rejoice.

O cuckoo! shall I call thee Bird,

Or but a wandering Voice?

While I am lying on the grass

Thy two-fold shout I hear,

That seems to fill the whole air's space,

As loud far off as near.

Though babbling only to the vale,
Of sunshine and of flowers,
Thou bringest unto me a tale
Of visionary hours.

Thrice welcome, darling of the Spring,
Even yet thou art to me
No bird; but an invisible thing,
A voice, a mystery.

The same whom in my school-boy days
I listened to; that Cry
Which made me look a thousand ways
In bush, and tree, and sky.

To seek thee did I often rove
Through woods and on the green;
And thou wert still a hope, a love;
Still longed for, never seen.

And I can listen to thee yet;
Can lie upon the plain
And listen, till I do beget
That golden time again.

O blessed Bird! the earth we pace,
Again appears to be
An unsubstantial, faery place;
That is fit home for Thee!"—*Wordsworth.*

"Not the whole warbling grove in concert heard
When sunshine follows shower, the breast can thrill
Like the first summons, Cuckoo! of thy bill,
With its twin notes inseparably paired.
The captive 'mid damp vaults unsunned, unaired,
Measuring the periods of his lonely doom,
That cry can reach; and to the sick man's room
Sends gladness, by no languid smile declared.
The lordly eagle-race through hostile search
May perish; time may come when never more
The wilderness shall hear the lion's roar;
But, long as cock shall crow from household perch
To rouse the dawn, soft gales shall speed thy wing,
And thy erratic voice be faithful to the Spring!"

Wordsworth.

"Sweet songsters near
Warble in shade their wild-wood melody:
Far off the unvarying Cuckoo soothes my ear."

Coleridge.

"What time the daisy decks the green,
Thy certain voice we hear;
Hast thou a star to guide thy path,
Or mark the rolling year?

Delightful visitant! with thee
I hail the time of flowers,
And hear the sound of music sweet
From birds among the bowers.

The school-boy, wandering through the wood
To pluck the primrose gay,
Starts thy curious voice to hear,
And imitates thy lay."—*Logan.*

"And often, by the murmuring rill,
Hears the thrush, while all is still
Within the groves of 'Grongar Hill.'"—*Dyer.*

"'Te Deum amoris' sang the thrustle cock;
Tubal himself, the first musician,
With key of harmony could not unlock
So sweet a tune as that the thrustle can."

Chaucer.

"The ousel-cock, so black of hue,
With orange-tawny bill,
The throstle with his note so true,
The wren with little quill."—*Shakespeare.*

"Right so (quoth she) as the milk white swan
Against his death beginneth for to sing,
Right so to you I make my complaining."
Chaucer.

"I heard (alas! 'twas only in a dream)
Strains—which, as sage Antiquity believed,
By waking ears have sometimes been received
Wafted adown the wind from lake or stream;
A most melodious requiem, a supreme
And perfect harmony of notes, achieved
By a fair Swan on drowsy billows heaved,
O'er which her pinions shed a silver gleam.
For is she not the votary of Apollo?
And knows she not, singing as he inspires,
That bliss awaits her which the ungenial Hollow*
Of the dull earth partakes not, nor desires?
Mount, tuneful Bird, and join the immortal quires!
She soared—and I awoke, struggling in vain to follow."
Wordsworth.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence, otherwise they cannot be inserted. It frequently occurs, that letters and papers respecting concerts which have taken place early in the month, do not reach us till the day of publication.

"Jubal" and "An Amateur."—If these correspondents will forward their addresses, they will receive a private communication.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

AYLESBURY.—A concert was given at the Castle Street Lecture-room, on the 16th of December, by Mr. Radway. The talent engaged upon the occasion was undeniable, and amongst the performers were Mr. E. Woodman, cornet-apiston, Mr. H. Tole, violin, and Mr. F. M. Brown, piano. Mr. Radway, Mr. Glidewell, and Mr. Martin completed the band.

BARNARD CASTLE.—On Friday, the 11th of December, the Choral Society of this town performed the *Messiah*, in the National School-room, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. The overture and accompaniments were played with great precision, and the chorus had evidently been well trained. The solo singers were Miss Newbound, Miss Witham, Mr. Raper, and Mr. Brandon. The band was led by Mr. Ainsworth, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and the baton was wielded by Mr. Bedsmore, of Lichfield.

BERMONDSEY.—A singing class, in connexion with the new Institute, has been opened at the Boys' School-room, Star Corner, under the superintendence of Mr. T. S. Williams, the organist of St. Paul's Church, Nelson-street. The class already numbers about 120 members.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Tuesday, December 22nd, the Birmingham Amateur Harmonic Association gave an "open rehearsal" of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, in the concert-room at Dee's Royal Hotel. About 400 friends of the members were present. The whole of the solos and concerted music was given by members of the association. Conductor, Mr. A. J. Sutton.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Festival Choral Society had their annual concert on the 26th of December; when the *Messiah* was performed by the members, assisted by Miss Witham, Mr. Miranda, Mr. Bickley, Mr. Glydon, and Mr. Briggs. Leader, Mr. Hayward; organist, Mr. Stimpson; chorus-master and conductor, Mr. W. C. Stockley. The band and chorus consisted of 250 performers.

BROSELEY.—On Wednesday, the 25th of November, a miscellaneous concert was given at the Town Hall, by Mr. C. Raden, assisted by Miss Joesbury, Mr. Mackain, and the Coalbrookdale Musical Class. The attendance was numerous, and the performance elicited much applause.

CAMELFORD.—The annual concert of the Camelford Glee Club was given on the 11th ult., in the Town Hall. The members were assisted by two friends of the Rector—Miss F. Tucker, of London, and Mr. Hawworth, of Exeter; and also by Messrs. Pearce and Hamlin, of Launceston. The glees were sung with much spirit and accuracy.

CANTERBURY.—At the first performance of the Musical Union, Handel's oratorio, *Judas Maccabæus*, was given in a very efficient style. The solo performers were Mrs. Pillow, Mr. Plant, Mr. Newsome, Mr. Farrow, and Master Irons. The band was led by Mr. Lyon; and Mr. Youlden accompanied on the harmonium. The performance was conducted by Mr. Longhurst, who has devoted much time to the training of the chorus.

CAERMARTHEN.—The first concert of the season given by the Caermarthen Musical Society, took place on the 1st of December, at the Assembly Rooms. The music was both vocal and instrumental, including a solo on the violin, played remarkably well by the conductor, Herr Hauptmann, and a trio of Mozart's, performed with great precision by Mrs. Howell, Herr Hauptmann, and Mr. J. W. Jones. The choruses from *William Tell* and *Preciosa*, by the choir of St. Peter's, with orchestral accompaniments, deserved great praise.

CECILIAN SOCIETY, ALBION HALL.—Handel's *Messiah* was performed by the society, on the 11th of December, for the benefit of the Hoxton Ragged Schools. The principal vocalists on the occasion were Miss Anne Cox, Miss Boden, Mr. J. W. Morgan (of Rochester Cathedral), and Mr. Harper. The room was well attended, and the performance gave great satisfaction. Conductor, Mr. Boardman; organist, Mr. Baines; trumpet, Mr. Ward.

CHARD HARMONIC SOCIETY.—The tenth monthly rehearsal of this society, under the conductorship of Mr. Tozer, was held at the Royal Assembly Rooms, on the 18th of Dec. The selection was of a secular character, and taken chiefly from Novello's *Glee-Hive* and *Musical Times*. The music generally was rendered in a most creditable manner.

CHEDDAR (Somerset).—The Cheddar Singing Class gave their third concert on Tuesday, December 8th, in the National School-room. The programme comprised a selection of glees, trios, and part-songs, which were very efficiently performed. Mr. D. Jefferies conducted.

CHEPSTOW.—A concert of sacred music, in aid of the Indian Fund, took place at the Beaufort Arms Assembly Room, on Tuesday, December 1st, and gave great satis-

* See the Phædon of Plato, by which this sonnet was suggested.